

February 8, 1973

Unicameral Legislature. There is a motion on the desk. Read the motion, please.

CLERK: Read.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, there has been some discussion here this morning that I think has shed considerable light upon the problem at hand and I think Senator Goodrich when he introduced the bill had a good idea. I am sure he was sincere in his motives and I am sure that we have a problem in some of these areas, blighted areas, and it isn't very often I disagree with my good friend Senator Stahmer but I think that Senator Lewis has pinpointed the problem very ably and adeptly and Senator Keyes touched upon it, and that is that every time you exempt something you are going to have to load the thing up a little greater and I think another thing we need to remember is this. It is very easy for individual groups to come into this body, apply a considerable amount of pressure, crank up a high level..a high level and a high pressure campaign and sell their idea to this body and I've been subjected to it and we all have. And I'm going to stand here and tell you that there have been times that I have succumbed to that pressure and I'm not embarrassed to admit it. And I want to agree with what Senator Chambers has said that all too often the people that are out here, both in the cities and in the country, that are not a member of any special group and do not have any special interest to promote are the ones who have to pick up the tab on the balance and everytime we do this we increase their load a little more. You know right now we are talking about if we were to advance this bill and it would go on the ballot and become law, we are talking about a break for some people. There are a great many ways that you can pass out the largess of the state of Nebraska. This is one of them. This goes to a very small group of people. When we talk about money for education, we talk about money for retarded children, we talk about money for welfare, we can pinpoint where that money goes and we all take a considerable amount of heat when we introduce one of those bills and I've introduced one that I'm taking a lot of heat on because it does some things for the people that are involved in the receiving of welfare money but I can't hide behind anything on that. I introduced the bill. We know where the money is going to go. We know what the amounts are and I'm going to take the pressure because I think the bill is right. But here, we introduce a bill where the benefits are never visible to the public and I think that this is one of the things that we need to remember. The accountability on this bill is not going to be something we can point to and so I think it is only proper that this bill be indefinitely postponed.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator DeCamp speaking on the motion to indefinitely postpone. Stand by, Senator Goodrich, we will get to you.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the temptation is indeed strong for me to offer some reasonable arguments in support of this bill but my conscience tells me better. I think you best know just what this bill does. For the argument that it would help blighted areas are indeed noble and I'm sure there is some logic to them but the fact is that this would pretty much destroy the uniformity of your taxing power under the Constitution and the consequences of doing this are so possibly devastating that it's frightening to even think about. This little amendment that's before you, this one page amendment, has more dynamite in it possibly than the next hundred bills we'll see through this Legislature. Now let's just assume that it were passed and that it were implemented by the people and put into the Constitution. This then gives the leverage to those interest groups that carry clout in the